

1 CLAIMS

2 I claim:

3 1. A simple and compact reusable directional golf tee apparatus having three related  
4 purposes, first to align a golfer to the desired flight path of his/her golf ball, second to position  
5 the face of the golfer's club to the intended direction of the ball, and third to give the golfer a  
6 reference for the exact center of the golf ball so that users of all skill levels can better visualize  
7 the position they must take in addressing and striking a golf ball to obtain greater distance and  
8 accuracy in launching the ball along a desired flight path, said apparatus comprising:

9 a substantially planar and substantially T-shaped plate configured for use at ground level  
10 and having opposing ends, with the cross member of its T-shaped configuration located at one of  
11 said opposing ends, the other of said opposing ends having a configuration that tapers to a point;

12 an aperture extending through said plate in a central location, said aperture being  
13 configured and dimensioned for insertion of a golf tee; and

14 a darkened substantially perpendicular line extending between said aperture and said  
15 cross member whereby when a golfer places said plate at ground level with said point directed  
16 toward the desired flight path of a golf ball, inserts a golf tee through said aperture in said plate  
17 and partially into the ground, and positions the golf ball upon the golf tee, the golfer can align the  
18 face of a golf club against said cross member to better visualize the position that must take in  
19 addressing and striking the golf ball to obtain greater distance and accuracy in launching the golf  
20 along the desired flight path.

21 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said T-shaped plate has an upper surface, and further  
22 comprising an extension of said line between said aperture and said pointed end.

23 3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said plate has maximum length and width  
24 dimensions of approximately three inches.

25 4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said T-shaped plate has an upper surface and further  
26 comprising informational markings on said upper surface.

1           5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said informational markings at least in part provide  
2 instructions for use of said apparatus.

3           6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said T-shaped plate has an upper surface and said  
4 aperture has a center, and further comprising an arrow marked onto said upper surface between  
5 said aperture and the one of said opposing ends that tapers to a point, said arrow being  
6 substantially aligned with said point and said center.

7           7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said T-shaped plate is made from materials selected  
8 from a group consisting of durable materials, lightweight materials, and plastic.

9           8. A method for using the apparatus in claim 1 to align a golfer to the desired flight path  
10 of his or her golf ball, to position the face of the golfer's club to the intended direction of the ball,  
11 and to give the golfer the exact center point of the golf ball as a reference so that users of all skill  
12 levels can better visualize the position they must take in addressing and striking a golf ball to  
13 obtain greater distance and accuracy in launching the ball along a desired flight path, said method  
14 comprising the steps of:

15           providing one said apparatus of claim 1, a golf tee, a golf ball, and a golf club;

16           determining the desired flight path for said ball;

17           selecting an appropriate ground location relative to said desired flight path for placing  
18 said apparatus;

19           placing said apparatus upon said ground location so that said aperture through said T-  
20 shaped plate is centered upon said ground location while said pointed end of said T-shaped plate  
21 is concurrently aimed in the direction of the desired flight path;

22           inserting a tee through said aperture in said T-shaped plate and partially into the ground  
23 below said T-shaped plate;

24           placing said golf ball upon said tee;

25           aligning said golf club with said cross member; and

26           using said darkened perpendicular line to center the face of the club head of said golf

1 club to the exact center of said golf ball whereby since the golfer does not have to look up prior  
2 to swinging said golf club to look at the desired flight path of the ball and club/ball alignment,  
3 the golfer's position and stance are not compromised during the swing, resulting in a straightened  
4 swing that is more consistent in launching said golf ball through the intended flight path.

5 9. The method of claim 8 wherein said tee is selected from a group consisting of tees  
6 having a standard size length dimension, tees having a shaft with a plurality of spaced-apart  
7 grooves thereon and each said groove being configured for engagement with said aperture  
8 through said T-shaped plate, and tees having a shaft dimension longer than standard sized tees.

9 10. The method of claim 9 further comprising a plurality of additional golf clubs, and  
10 wherein each of said grooves is positioned for use with a different one of said golf clubs so that a  
11 center strike of the launched golf ball can be more consistently achieved, producing more even  
12 ball recoil and a more predictable shot.

13 11. The method of claim 8 wherein said T-shaped plate has an upper surface and an  
14 extension of said darkened line marked onto said upper surface between said aperture and said  
15 pointed end, and further comprising a step after said step of aligning said golf club with said  
16 cross member wherein the golfer centers the face of said golf club with said darkened line and  
17 said line extension.

18 12. The method of claim 8 wherein said T-shaped plate is made from materials selected  
19 from a group consisting of durable materials, lightweight materials, and plastic, and further  
20 wherein said plate has maximum length and width dimensions of approximately three inches and  
21 said golf tee has a minimum length dimension of approximately two-and-one-fourth inches.

22 13. The method of claim 8 wherein said T-shaped plate has an upper surface and further  
23 comprising informational markings on said upper surface that at least in part provide instructions  
24 for use of said apparatus, and further comprising the step of using said instructions for use to  
25 assist a golfer in orientation of said apparatus and said golf club relative to the desired flight path  
26 of said golf ball.

1           14. A method for using said apparatus of claim 1 for aligning a golfer's club in a manner  
2 that ensures a confident and steady swing and prevents premature wrist hinge, said method  
3 comprising the steps of:

4           providing one said apparatus of claim 1, a golf tee, a golf ball, and a golf club;

5           determining the desired flight path for said ball;

6           selecting a ground location for said apparatus that is appropriate to said desired flight path  
7 and under the anticipated point of contact between said golf ball and said golf club once said golf  
8 club is swung;

9           placing said T-shaped plate on said ground location at a spaced-apart distance in front of  
10 the golfer's feet with said aperture positioned under said anticipated point of contact between  
11 said golf ball and said golf club, with said pointed end of said T-shaped plate directed toward the  
12 intended flight path of said golf ball and said cross member oriented toward the direction from  
13 which said golf club will be swung;

14          inserting said golf tee through said aperture and into the ground below said T-shaped  
15 plate;

16          balancing said golf ball upon said tee;

17          using said cross member to align the face of said golf club; and

18          using said darkened perpendicular line to center the face of the club head of said golf  
19 club to the exact center of said golf ball whereby the golfer is able to rely on said tapered end of  
20 said T-shaped plate, said cross member, and said darkened line for directional assistance in self-  
21 alignment relative to the desired flight path of said golf ball and since the golfer does not have to  
22 look up prior to swinging said golf club to look at the desired flight path of the ball and club/ball  
23 alignment, the golfer's position and stance are not compromised during the swing, resulting in a  
24 straightened swing that is more consistent in launching said golf ball through the intended flight  
25 path.

26          15. The method of claim 14 wherein said tee is selected from a group consisting of tees

1 having a standard size length dimension, tees having a shaft with a plurality of spaced-apart  
2 grooves thereon and each said groove being configured for engagement with said aperture  
3 through said T-shaped plate, and tees having a shaft dimension longer than standard sized tees.

4 16. The method of claim 15 further comprising a plurality of additional golf clubs, and  
5 wherein each of said grooves is positioned for use with a different one of said golf clubs so that a  
6 center strike of the launched golf ball can be more consistently achieved, producing more even  
7 ball recoil and a more predictable shot.

8 17. The method of claim 14 wherein said T-shaped plate has an upper surface and an  
9 extension of said line segment marked onto said upper surface between said aperture and said  
10 pointed end, and further comprising a step after said step of aligning said golf club with said  
11 cross member wherein the golfer centers the face of said golf club with said darkened line and  
12 said line extension.

13 18. The method of claim 14 wherein said T-shaped plate is made from materials selected  
14 from a group consisting of durable materials, lightweight materials, and plastic.

15 19. The method of claim 14 wherein said T-shaped plate has an upper surface and further  
16 comprising informational markings on said upper surface that at least in part provide instructions  
17 for use of said apparatus, and further comprising the step of using said instructions for use to  
18 assist a golfer in orientation of said apparatus and said golf club relative to the desired flight path  
19 of said golf ball.

20 20. The method of claim 14 wherein said plate has maximum length and width  
21 dimensions of approximately three inches and said golf tee has a minimum length dimension of  
22 approximately two-and-one-fourth inches.

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